IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please correct the following paragraphs as noted:

Please amend paragraph 25 beginning on page 8, as follows:

Figure 16 is a partial and generally schematic cross-sectional view of the spine showing rods being implanted on opposite sides of the spine and with the rod on the left in an early stage of implanting while the rod on the right is in a later stage of implanting, taken along line 16-16 of Fig. 15.

Please amend paragraph 37 beginning on page 11, as follows:

The end guide tool 9 is illustrated in Figures 4 through 6. In particular, each end guide tool 9 has an elongate body ~~14~~ 15 that is sized and shaped to be sufficiently long to extend from implanted bone screws 6 through an exterior of a patient's skin 14 so as to provide an outwardly extending and upper handle portion 16 that allows and provides for gripping by a surgeon during procedures utilizing the tool set 1. Each of the end guides 9 include an intermediate portion 19 and a lower portion 20 along the length thereof. Each end guide tool 9 has a back wall 21 joining a pair of side walls 22 and 23.

Please amend the paragraph 38 beginning on page 12, line 6 as follows:

More specifically, the upper portion 16 of each end guide tool 9 is generally channel shaped having a U-shaped cross-section, a C-shaped cross-section, a crescent shaped cross-section or the like in order to form an opening 24 that opens into and forms part of a channel 25 that opens radially to one side of the end guide tool 9 and defines the side to side opening 24 that is sufficiently wide to receive additional tools and/or a closure top, as will be discussed below. The intermediate portion 19 of each end guide also includes an outward facing channel 29 that has an opening 26 which is somewhat smaller than the opening 24 of the upper portion 16, such that the channel 29 is sized and shaped to receive certain tools, as described below. Finally, the end guide lower portion 20 also includes a groove or channel 34 opening radially outward and having a side-to-side width or opening 35 that is approximately the same size as the opening 26. The channel 34 has a rear ~~welt~~ web or wall 36 having a lower end 37. All of the channels 25, 29 and 34 communicate with one another and are aligned with one another so as to provide a continuous elongate interior passageway with an open side from near a top 38 to near a bottom 39 thereof. This passageway provides a continuous open path of non-uniform cross-

section radius from the top 38 to the bottom 39 thereof that is parallel to an elongate axis A of each end guide tool 9. As will be discussed later, each end guide tool channel 34 is especially sized and shaped to slidingly receive a respective end 42 of the rod 4 therein.

Please amend paragraph 51 beginning on page 20, as follows:

Enclosure 52 closes between the spaced bone screw arms 74 and 75 to secure the rod 4 in the channel 67. The closure top 52 can be any of many different plug type closures. Preferably the closure top 52 has a cylindrical body 123 that has a helically wound mating guide and advancement structure 125. The guide and advance at structure 125 can be of any type, including V-type threads, ~~butress~~ buttress threads, reverse angle threads, or square threads. Preferably the guide and advancement structure 125 is a helically wound flange form that interlocks with a reciprocal flange form as part of the second guide and advancement structure 76 on the interior of the bone screw arms 74 and 75. A suitable locking guide and advancement structure of this type is disclosed in U.S. Patent 6,726,689 from Serial No. 10/236,123 which is incorporated herein by reference. The helical wound guide 50 and advancement structure in the bottom 39 of each of ~~end~~ the guide tools 9 and 10 is sized and shaped to

receive the mating guide and advancement structure 125 of the closure top 52 and align with the second guide and advancement structure 76 of the bone screw 6 to form a generally continuous helically wound pathway, but does not require locking between the closure top 52 and the tools 9 and 10, even when a locking flange form is utilized on the closure top 52. The illustrated structure 125 has a square form or a square thread type shape. The guide 50 allows the closure top 52 to be rotated and the surgeon to develop mechanical advantage to urge or drive the rod 4, while still outside the bone screw head 6, toward and into the bone screw head 66. This is especially helpful where the rod 4 is bent relative to the location of the vertebra 18 to which the rod 4 is to attach and is not easily placed in the bone screw head 66 without force and the mechanical advantage provided by the guide 50. In particular, the first guide and advancement structure 109 on each tool 9 and 10 is located and positioned to align with the second guide and advancement structure 76 on the insides of the bone screw arms 74 and 75, as seen in Figs. 17 and 18 and pass the closure top 52 therebetween while allowing the closure top 52 to continue to rotate and to continuously apply force to the rod 4, so as to seat the rod 4 in the bone screw head 66.

Please amend paragraph 52 beginning on page 21, as follows:

Each closure top 52 also preferably includes a break off head 127 that breaks from the body 123 in a break off region 128 upon the application of a preselected torque, such as 95 inch-pounds. The break off head preferably has a hexagonal cross-section faceted exterior 129 that is adapted to mate with a similarly shaped socket of a closure driving or installation tool 145, described below. It is foreseen that different driving heads or other methods of driving the closure top 52 can be utilize with certain embodiments of the invention.

Please amend paragraph beginning on page 23, as follows:

The procedure is begun by forming a relatively small incision, such as incision 165 in the skin 14 for each bone screw 6 to be used. The incisions 165 are stretched into a round shape with a circumference equal to or just slightly larger than the guide tools 9 and 10. The skin 14 is relatively flexible and allows the surgeon to move the incision 165 around relative to the spine 17 to manipulate the various tools and implants, as required. A drill (not shown) is utilized to form a guide bore (not shown) in a vertebra 18 under guidance of non invasive imaging techniques, which procedure is well known and

established. A thin pin 166 is inserted in the guide bore. A bone screw 6 is selected in accordance with the size of the patient's vertebra 18 and the requirements of the spinal support needed. Bone screws 6 having a rotatable or ~~poly-axial~~ polyaxial head 66 are preferred for the procedure, as such allow relatively easy adjustment of the rod 4 in the tools 9 and 10 during placement and for movement of tools 9 and10, as described below. The bone screw 6 is also cannulated so as to be receivable over and guided by the pin 166 toward the proper position in the associated vertebra 18.